

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated May 6, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,215,904 B1 to Lavallee. The Examiner objected to claims 2-6 and 11-14 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, and stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner allowed claims 7-9.

In the Specification, no changes.

In the Claims, claims 1 and 10 are amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 12, respectively, and should now be allowable. Claims 2 and 12 are cancelled. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections and objections stated in the Office action, and pass the application to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment or remarks, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Provisional Request for Extension of time in Which to Respond

Should this response be deemed to be untimely, Applicants hereby request an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge

any additional fees which may be required, or credit any over-payment to Account No. 22-0258.

Customer Number

23855

Respectfully Submitted,

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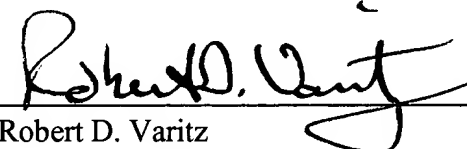
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Date of Deposit - July 13, 2004

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I hereby certify that the attached RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450


Robert D. Varitz